

RAP HAMLET OUTLINE

1) Ham and Homeboy banter at basketball. What emerges is that Ham loves Felecia, and also that he is disturbed by his mother's hasty wedding just after his father's death.

Homeboy claims that a man eerily resembling Ham's father has been attending the games each night. Ham promises to check out that figure.

2) Ham in melancholy attendance at a kind of impromptu party given by Boss and Gert, both affecting a kind of puppy love. He's lectured by Boss for mourning too long for his father, and directs some vicious, if veiled, remarks at both of them. Pol tries to salve things periodically, but muddles the picture. combine w 3

3) Ham and the ghost: he learns Boss has killed his father, and is instructed to "Get him!" He agonizes over these words, feeling that his father would never exact murderous revenge in life. A manic Ham tells Homeboy that he'd now act crazy as part of a strategy in the dangerous polcure in leadership, has asked him to keep an eye on strangely behaving Ham, who is popular with the people. Gert, trying to protect Ham, says she will talk to him.

7) Ham contemplates suicide, not wanting to murder and not knowing what else to do. In a splitscreen format, Felicia also contemplates suicide. At points the lovers seem to counterpoint, even answer, each other.

8) Ham berates his mother in her bedroom, comparing the sleazy and corrupt Boss to his regal father. Gert is convinced and ready to leave Boss when the ghost reappears to tell Ham to get on with it. Ham's talking to the ghost terrifies Gert, whose screams bring forth yells from the eavesdropping Pol. Ham punches at the curtains Pol hides behind, and finally chases him, thinking it's Boss. We hear the screech of brakes. Pol has been struck down by a car and killed. Gold driver.

9) Boss summons Ham to meet Gold. He explains that Ham's mother has asked Boss to divert any possible criminal charges against Ham. Boss insists Ham go with Gold for a month or so, until the atmosphere cools.

10) Brass enlists marchers for his crusade against drugs. He states also that he will expel Boss and take over. 11) Felicia, unnerved anyway by Ham's conduct, disintegrates upon her father's death. One night, spouting wildly sexual remarks, she wanders into a river and drowns. (delete)

12) Ham meets Homeboy in a cemetery where Ham tells how he eluded a plot to murder him.

At a convenience store Gold pulled a gun and the clerk, instead of shooting Hamlet, shot Gold. Hamlet had prearranged such an outcome with a large bribe and the promise of all Gold's jewelry.

A homeless woman debates the two friends, getting Ham onto his favorite theme of earthly corruption. Felecia's funeral procession enters.

Soon Larry and Ham are fighting in her grave. Homeboy and Boss break it up.

13) Later, Boss tells Larry of a oneonone basketball duel he has set up for Ham and Larry, ostensibly to promote a forgiving and festive air. Larry considers all of that trivial, and wants answers as to why Ham wasn't tried for Pol's death. Boss spared Ham, he tells Larry, as a favor to Ham's mother, but now gets Larry to agree that Ham must die. A towel which Ham will use at the first break will have been treated with poison. He will soon collapse in the exertion of the game.

Boss's personal physician will attribute death to a preexisting heart condition. As a failsafe, Boss will also have a poisoned bottle of Gator Aide close by Ham. 14) At the contest we have Ham's dogged defense against Larry's balletlike moves. Larry is far ahead when time is called. Boss tells Ham to wipe his brow etc., but Ham says he hasn't really worked up a sweat yet. Gert unwittingly takes the poisoned towel in order to pat Ham's face, which she does. Then she playfully chases Larry in order to do the same. Larry eludes her but Ham snatches the towel and, facing Larry, throws it around his neck, and gently whipsaws him while asking his forgiveness. Larry staggers away, but then manages to inform Ham of the details of Boss's treachery.

Gert dies. Ham pursues Boss offstage. We hear choking. Ham reenters and tells how he shoved towel down throat of Boss. Homeboy tries to drink poisoned GatorAide but Ham asks him to tell Ham's story, so no one will remember him as a murderer. Brass quickly enters and takes charge, knocking away the GatorAide, regretting that Ham didn't live to help him, but advising Homeboy that he'd depend mightily on him. Homeboy wants to plan a funeral for his friend, but Brass informs him they have to get on immediately with the necessary reforms. "Let the dead bury their dead." carry a brick

